

Amendments to the Drawing

Enclosed is replacement sheet 3 showing amendments to FIG. 6.

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 12-14, and 17-20 were rejected. Claims 4-11, 15, and 16 were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 1, 4, 17, and 20 are amended, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-11, 15, and 16. Claim 4 has been placed in independent form.

Information Disclosure Statement and Interview Summary

At page 2, the Office action asserted that the IDS failed to include the concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English documents. However, the IDS transmittal included several of those explanations and identified the remainder as already being present in the specification. No objection was raised to the form of such explanations. Thus it is believed that the explanations were accidentally overlooked. This was discussed in a July 11, 2006 telephone interview between the undersigned and Examiner Ko Hung Chan.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for failing to include reference numbers 46, 50, and 52. By the foregoing amendment, these have been added to FIG. 6.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 12, 13, and 17-20 were rejected as being anticipated by Mooser (US2793468). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mooser. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

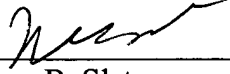
Mooser element 17 was asserted as the claimed damping means. Element 17 is a rod which is fixed "steplessly" in gripping jaws 19 and 20.

Claims 1, 17, and 20 have been amended to identify fluid damping. Support for this is found in claim 6 which retains the further element of "viscous". Mooser (e.g., its clamp) fails to

disclose or suggest such a fluid damper.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

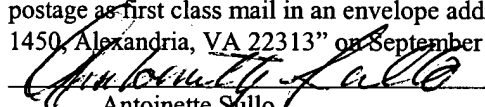
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Date: September 22, 2006

Enclosure: Replacement Sheet 3

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on September 22, 2006


Antoinette Sullo